

## MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

The number of marriages in New Jersey in 2003 declined 2.4 percent from 2002, while the number of divorces decreased 6.1 percent (Table MD1 and Figure MD1).

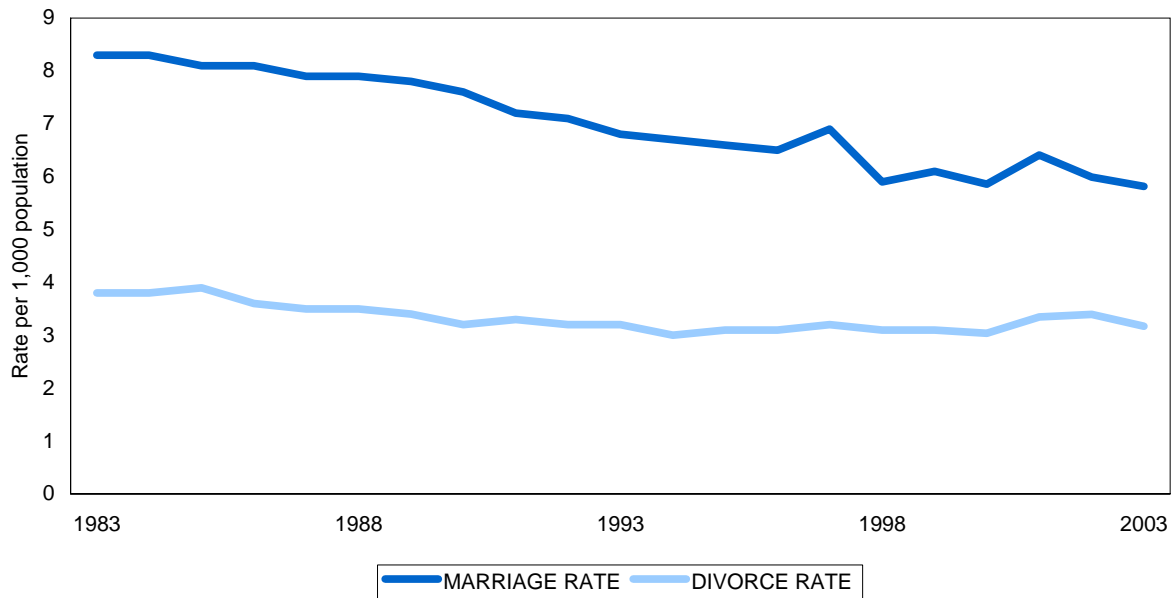
The median ages of all brides and grooms, including first-time brides and grooms, were the same as in 2002 (Table MD2 and Figure MD2). The percentage of first-time brides and grooms who were under 20 years of age decreased slightly from 2002. After declining considerably starting in the 1980s, this percentage has remained fairly stable from the mid-1990s to the present. The percentage of first-time brides and grooms under age 25 also decreased substantially through the 1980s and has continued to decrease, though at a slower rate (Table MD3 and Figure MD3).

In 63.5 percent of marriages, the bride was younger than the groom. In about one-quarter of marriages, the bride was older than the groom. Age differences were more likely and, on average, were larger in marriages where one or both participants had been married before. In 74.0 percent of first marriages, the bride and groom were within five years of each other in age. This was true in fewer than half (46.9%) of marriages in which the bride or groom or both had been previously married (Table MD5).

The percentages of brides and grooms who were previously divorced were 8.1 and 9.8 percent higher, respectively, than ten years earlier (Table MD6).

August was the most popular month for marriages in 2003, followed by September, October, and June. More than 11 percent of marriages occurred in August while only 4.5 percent occurred in January, the least popular month (Table MD8).

**FIGURE MD1. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES  
NEW JERSEY, 1983-2003**

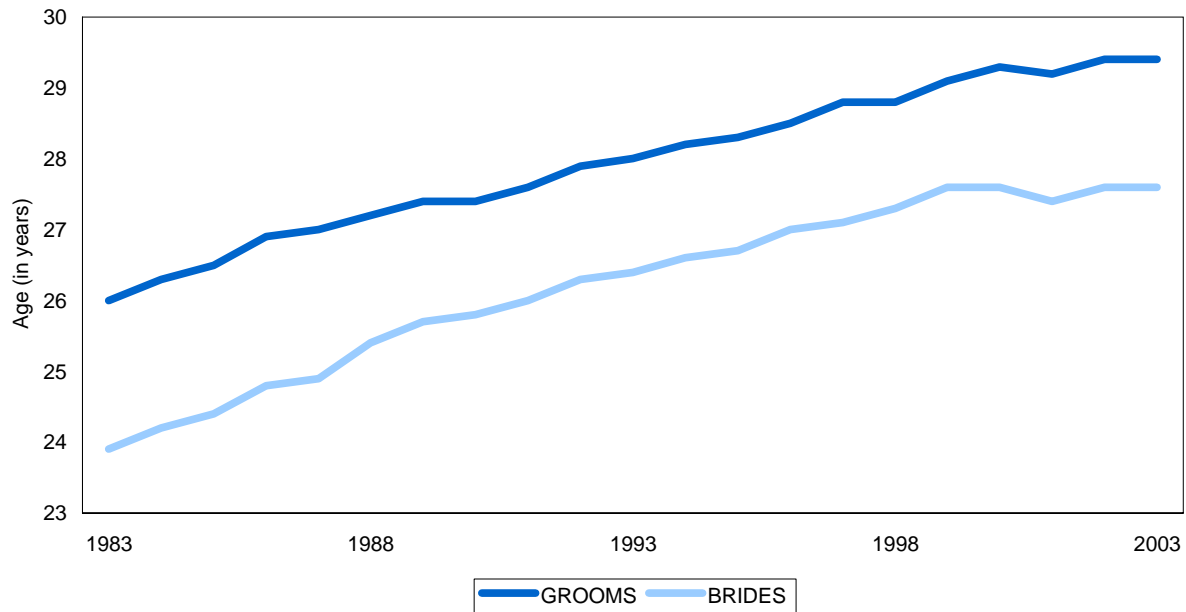


**TABLE MD1. MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES  
NEW JERSEY, 1983-2003**

YEAR	MARRIAGES		DIVORCES	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
1983	61,798	8.3	27,923	3.8
1984	62,654	8.3	28,470	3.8
1985	61,189	8.1	29,295	3.9
1986	61,362	8.1	27,669	3.6
1987	60,550	7.9	27,222	3.5
1988	61,063	7.9	26,897	3.5
1989	60,076	7.8	26,059	3.4
1990	58,747	7.6	24,911	3.2
1991	55,832	7.2	25,686	3.3
1992	55,321	7.1	25,405	3.2
1993	53,505	6.8	24,784	3.2
1994	52,797	6.7	23,899	3.0
1995	52,208	6.6	24,293	3.1
1996	51,811	6.5	25,048	3.1
1997	55,467	6.9	25,537	3.2
1998	47,812	5.9	25,295	3.1
1999	49,421	6.1	25,181	3.1
2000	49,302	5.9	25,576	3.0
2001	54,536	6.4	28,495	3.3
2002	51,473	6.0	29,191	3.4
2003	50,228	5.8	27,419	3.2

Rates are computed per 1,000 population.

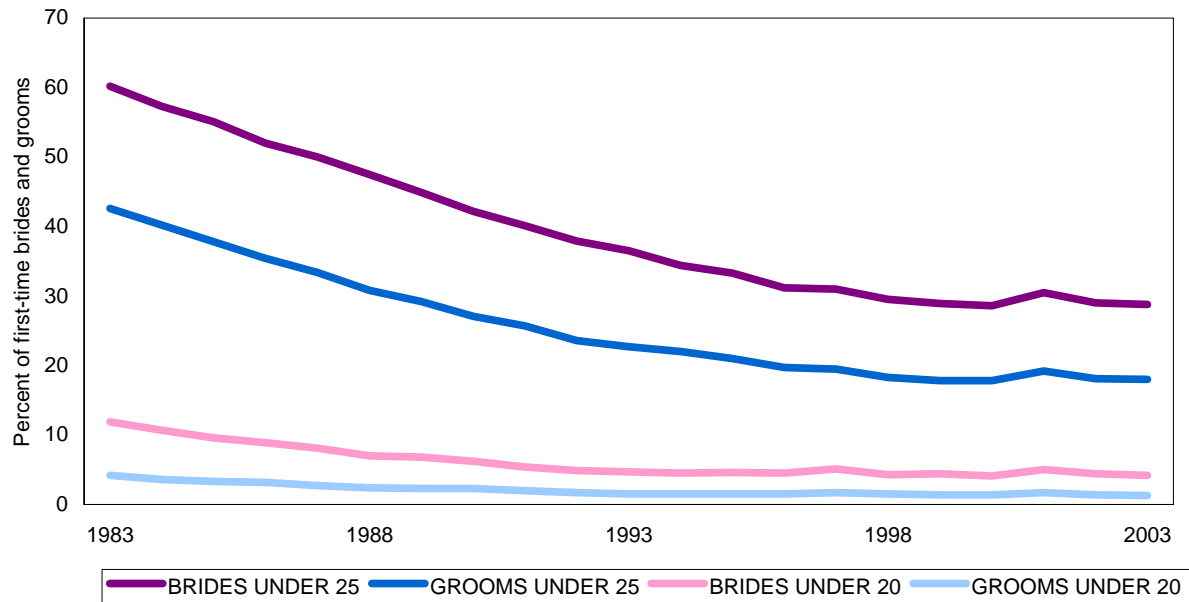
**FIGURE MD2. MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE  
NEW JERSEY, 1983-2003**



**TABLE MD2. MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE  
NEW JERSEY, 1983-2003**

YEAR	ALL BRIDES	ALL GROOMS	FIRST-TIME BRIDES	FIRST-TIME GROOMS
1983	25.7	28.0	23.9	26.0
1984	26.1	28.3	24.2	26.3
1985	26.4	28.5	24.4	26.5
1986	26.7	28.6	24.8	26.9
1987	26.9	28.8	24.9	27.0
1988	27.2	29.0	25.4	27.2
1989	27.4	29.1	25.7	27.4
1990	27.3	29.0	25.8	27.4
1991	27.6	29.4	26.0	27.6
1992	27.9	29.8	26.3	27.9
1993	28.1	29.9	26.4	28.0
1994	28.4	30.2	26.6	28.2
1995	28.5	30.4	26.7	28.3
1996	28.8	30.7	27.0	28.5
1997	29.0	31.0	27.1	28.8
1998	29.0	31.0	27.3	28.8
1999	29.4	31.3	27.6	29.1
2000	29.6	31.5	27.6	29.3
2001	29.6	31.6	27.4	29.2
2002	29.9	32.1	27.6	29.4
2003	29.9	32.1	27.6	29.4

**FIGURE MD3. FIRST-TIME BRIDES AND GROOMS  
UNDER 25 AND UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE  
NEW JERSEY, 1983-2003**



**TABLE MD3. FIRST-TIME BRIDES AND GROOMS BY AGE  
NEW JERSEY, 1983-2003**

YEAR	BRIDES		GROOMS	
	PERCENT UNDER 25	PERCENT UNDER 20	PERCENT UNDER 25	PERCENT UNDER 20
1983	60.2	11.9	42.6	4.2
1984	57.3	10.7	40.2	3.6
1985	55.1	9.6	37.8	3.3
1986	52.0	8.9	35.4	3.2
1987	50.0	8.1	33.4	2.7
1988	47.5	7.0	30.8	2.4
1989	44.9	6.8	29.2	2.3
1990	42.2	6.2	27.1	2.3
1991	40.1	5.4	25.7	2.0
1992	37.9	4.9	23.6	1.7
1993	36.5	4.7	22.7	1.5
1994	34.4	4.5	22.0	1.5
1995	33.3	4.6	21.0	1.5
1996	31.2	4.5	19.7	1.5
1997	31.0	5.1	19.5	1.7
1998	29.5	4.3	18.3	1.5
1999	28.9	4.4	17.8	1.4
2000	28.6	4.1	17.8	1.4
2001	30.5	5.0	19.2	1.7
2002	29.0	4.4	18.1	1.4
2003	28.8	4.2	18.0	1.3

**TABLE MD4. MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE AND AGE OF GROOM  
NEW JERSEY, 2003**

AGE OF BRIDE	TOTAL	AGE OF GROOM										
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+
< 15	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	1,545	301	857	252	96	24	10	4	1	0	0	0
20-24	9,159	133	3,731	3,669	1,082	356	116	41	22	6	2	1
25-29	14,720	30	1,088	7,651	4,110	1,252	390	135	38	17	6	3
30-34	9,231	7	246	1,555	3,882	2,161	899	307	109	41	16	8
35-39	5,718	5	81	348	1,118	1,881	1,341	580	219	88	37	20
40-44	3,835	0	25	109	315	656	1,129	867	439	192	63	40
45-49	2,696	0	9	43	115	218	506	730	581	279	125	90
50-54	1,643	0	2	13	18	72	163	264	458	340	174	139
55-59	851	0	0	5	7	20	43	67	140	234	208	127
60-64	434	0	0	0	1	1	3	15	46	79	123	166
65+	391	0	0	0	1	5	2	1	7	17	33	325
NOT STATED	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	50,228	476	6,039	13,647	10,746	6,647	4,603	3,011	2,060	1,293	787	919

**TABLE MD5. MARRIAGES BY DIFFERENCE IN AGES OF BRIDE AND GROOM**

**NEW JERSEY, 2003**

BRIDE IS ... THAN GROOM	ALL MARRIAGES		FIRST MARRIAGES*		NOT FIRST MARRIAGES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
30+ YEARS OLDER	9	0.0	3	0.0	6	0.0
25-29 YEARS OLDER	20	0.0	4	0.0	16	0.1
20-24 YEARS OLDER	63	0.1	11	0.0	52	0.3
15-19 YEARS OLDER	254	0.5	50	0.2	204	1.0
10-14 YEARS OLDER	850	1.7	260	0.9	590	3.0
5-9 YEARS OLDER	2,926	5.8	1,138	3.8	1,788	9.0
1-4 YEARS OLDER	8,687	17.3	5,583	18.4	3,104	15.5
SAME AGE	5,531	11.0	4,150	13.7	1,381	6.9
1-4 YEARS YOUNGER	17,537	34.9	12,656	41.8	4,881	24.4
5-9 YEARS YOUNGER	9,268	18.5	4,896	16.2	4,372	21.9
10-14 YEARS YOUNGER	3,230	6.4	1,142	3.8	2,088	10.5
15-19 YEARS YOUNGER	1,166	2.3	261	0.9	905	4.5
20-24 YEARS YOUNGER	429	0.9	69	0.2	360	1.8
25-29 YEARS YOUNGER	159	0.3	29	0.1	130	0.7
30+ YEARS YOUNGER	95	0.2	9	0.0	86	0.4
AGE UNKNOWN	4	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,228</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30,262</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,966</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* First marriage for both the bride and the groom. If either married before, in "not first marriages" column.

**TABLE MD6. MARRIAGES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS****NEW JERSEY, 1993-2003**

YEAR	NUMBER OF MARRIAGES	BRIDES			GROOMS		
		PERCENT NEVER MARRIED	PERCENT WIDOWED	PERCENT DIVORCED	PERCENT NEVER MARRIED	PERCENT WIDOWED	PERCENT DIVORCED
1993	53,505	74.0	2.4	23.6	73.2	2.4	24.4
1994	52,797	74.0	2.3	23.7	73.2	2.4	24.4
1995	52,208	74.3	2.4	23.3	73.4	2.3	24.3
1996	51,811	74.3	2.3	23.5	73.2	2.4	24.5
1997	55,467	73.6	2.3	24.1	73.0	2.3	24.6
1998	47,812	74.0	2.3	23.7	72.8	2.5	24.7
1999	49,421	74.0	2.4	23.6	72.7	2.5	24.8
2000	49,302	73.1	2.3	24.5	71.8	2.4	25.8
2001	54,536	72.8	2.2	24.9	72.0	2.1	25.9
2002	51,473	72.2	2.2	25.5	70.8	2.3	26.9
2003	50,228	72.3	2.2	25.5	71.0	2.2	26.8

**TABLE MD7. PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE AND OF GROOM****NEW JERSEY, 2003**

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE	TOTAL	PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF GROOM			
		NEVER MARRIED	WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NOT STATED
NEVER MARRIED	36,300	30,262	235	5,799	4
WIDOWED	1,094	261	329	504	0
DIVORCED	12,827	5,123	566	7,138	0
NOT STATED	7	2	0	0	5
TOTAL	50,228	35,648	1,130	13,441	9

**TABLE MD8. MARRIAGES BY MONTH AND COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE**

**NEW JERSEY, 2003**

COUNTY	TOTAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ATLANTIC	1,996	92	113	121	137	228	218	181	195	215	222	153	121
BERGEN	4,841	239	268	324	325	495	502	428	582	488	523	373	294
BURLINGTON	2,250	81	118	136	153	258	248	182	250	242	244	183	155
CAMDEN	2,768	127	150	188	186	309	288	238	290	310	306	218	158
CAPE MAY	1,142	30	36	43	68	138	175	79	119	186	164	61	43
CUMBERLAND	830	42	50	61	51	98	94	79	92	76	84	53	50
ESSEX	4,980	214	355	283	367	500	517	454	615	497	494	375	309
GLOUCESTER	1,494	51	70	69	102	189	191	139	174	159	153	127	70
HUDSON	4,054	252	325	303	323	350	380	377	430	366	401	279	268
HUNTERDON	620	22	22	28	36	67	73	53	70	82	88	39	40
MERCER	1,908	82	118	103	112	195	225	179	222	218	196	145	113
MIDDLESEX	3,969	204	244	269	286	378	400	375	458	401	424	293	237
MONMOUTH	3,820	135	169	221	243	415	435	352	435	520	450	270	175
MORRIS	2,902	122	125	165	194	351	305	285	346	329	322	207	151
OCEAN	2,799	105	137	165	182	273	310	285	307	352	307	215	161
PASSAIC	3,174	163	168	198	214	322	314	302	353	361	353	235	191
SALEM	376	8	27	18	17	46	44	35	55	43	39	22	22
SOMERSET	1,596	53	71	110	86	204	179	147	189	186	168	141	62
SUSSEX	753	20	39	32	45	77	96	75	99	82	103	51	34
UNION	3,456	187	242	248	268	325	344	312	406	303	355	261	205
WARREN	467	15	22	25	24	55	59	41	57	54	50	35	30
MILITARY	33	1	3	10	3	2	4	1	5	2	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,228</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>5,275</b>	<b>5,401</b>	<b>4,599</b>	<b>5,749</b>	<b>5,472</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>2,889</b>



**TABLE MD9. MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE  
NEW JERSEY, 2003**

COUNTY	MARRIAGES	MARRIAGE RATE	DIVORCES	DIVORCE RATE
ATLANTIC	1,996	7.6	1,062	4.0
BERGEN	4,841	5.4	2,405	2.7
BURLINGTON	2,250	5.1	1,457	3.3
CAMDEN	2,768	5.4	1,455	2.8
CAPE MAY	1,142	11.2	302	3.0
CUMBERLAND	830	5.6	499	3.3
ESSEX	4,980	6.3	2,582	3.2
GLOUCESTER	1,494	5.6	810	3.0
HUDSON	4,054	6.7	2,377	3.9
HUNTERDON	620	4.8	369	2.9
MERCER	1,908	5.3	1,000	2.8
MIDDLESEX	3,969	5.1	2,483	3.2
MONMOUTH	3,820	6.0	1,662	2.6
MORRIS	2,902	6.0	1,630	3.4
OCEAN	2,799	5.1	1,601	2.9
PASSAIC	3,174	6.4	1,837	3.7
SALEM	376	5.8	229	3.5
SOMERSET	1,596	5.1	892	2.9
SUSSEX	753	5.0	515	3.4
UNION	3,456	6.5	1,852	3.5
WARREN	467	4.3	400	3.7
MILITARY	33	N/A	0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,228</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>27,419</b>	<b>3.2</b>

Rates are computed per 1,000 resident population.

Divorce figures include divorces, annulments, and separate maintenance actions.